

NOV 7 1957

Virginia's Road Chief Slated for Retirement

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LEXINGTON, Va., Nov. 7.

The retirement of Gen. James A. Anderson as Virginia State Highway Commissioner was reported imminent today.

The general here for the Virginia Highway Conference and a meeting of the highway commission, said any official announcement would have to come from the Governor's office at Richmond.

But two members of the Highway Commission confirmed that Gen. Anderson was stepping aside to retire to his farm near here, and the general commented, "When I do leave, I hope it will be by retirement and not by resignation."

Lauded by Stanley

Gen. Anderson has been the head of Virginia's highway system since 1941. Gov. Stanley today in a speech here complimented Gen. Anderson on the "many notable advances" Virginia's highway program has made under his leadership.

Gen. Anderson would be stepping aside almost simultaneously with the completion of the gigantic Hampton Roads bridge-tunnel system, the largest project ever undertaken by the department.

The speculation here was that F. A. Davis, 37, deputy commissioner and chief engineer, would be appointed acting commissioner by Gov. Stanley.

The highway commission itself was meeting here today. It has been the practice of the commission for several years to hold its scheduled meeting in connection with the Virginia Highway Conference.

Appointment Up to Almond

Appointment of a permanent head of the highway department would be up to Gov.-Elect J. Lindsay Almond, jr., who takes office January 11.

Mr. Almond has maintained

steadfastly that he would make no pre-election commitments on appointments. The highway post pays \$14,850 a year.

Gen. Anderson was born 66 years ago at Linden in Warren County. He was graduated from Virginia Military Institute in 1913 and later headed the engineering department there. He became dean of the faculty in 1937.

During World War I he served in the Virginia National Guard rising to the rank of lieutenant colonel.

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